

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
60 FORSYTH STREET, SW SUITE 6M80
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303**

OFFICE: 404-562-5850 **FAX:** 404-562-5875 **JOHNNY FREEMAN:** 404-562-5870
INTERNET: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm> **RECORDING:** 404-562-5856

December 22, 2006

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
FOR WEEK ENDING 23-Dec-06 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	CURRENT WEEK 12/23/06	PREVIOUS WEEK 12/16/06
Broiler/fryer	162,044	163,751
Light hens	1,165	1,232
Heavy hens	1,513	1,519

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	WEEK ENDING 16-Dec-06 (THOUSAND HEAD)		
	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
Head	156	0	156
Head sltr Comparisons			
Last Week	231	0	231
Same week yr ago	142	0	142
To-date/2006	7,689	50	7,739
To-date/2005	12,340	63	12,403

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Total U. S. fowl slaughter in the U. S. and Canada

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
Head	1,267	1,518	2,785
Head sltr Comparisons			
Last Week	1,388	1,529	2,917
Same week yr ago	1,546	1,488	3,034
To-date/2006	61,208	74,477	135,685
To-date/2005	83,376	70,909	154,285

**LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
WEEK ENDING 16-Dec-06 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
Head	160,125	1,111	1,518	2,629
Avg Wt	5.31	3.44	7.77	5.94
Head sltr comparisons				
Last week	163,326	1,157	1,529	2,686
Same wk yr ago	164,304	1,404	1,488	2,892
Avg Wt	5.37	3.28	7.87	5.64
To-date/2006	8,057,771	53,519	74,427	127,946
To-date/2005	8,049,593	71,036	70,846	141,882

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 1156.8 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 162.1 million head, or 5.3 million more than estimated available.

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION,
CLASSIFIED BY LIVE WEIGHT, WEEK ENDING 16-Dec-06

	(A) 4.25 lbs & down	(B) 4.26 - 6.25 lbs	(C) 6.26 - 7.75 lbs	(D) 7.76 lbs & up	Total
Head	49,089	78,448	21,388	11,200	160,125
Avg Live Wgt	3.72	5.45	6.89	8.27	5.31
% of total /1	31%	49%	13%	7%	100%
Last week	39,631	82,812	27,121	13,762	163,326
Avg Live Wgt	3.85	5.38	6.85	8.18	5.49
% of total /1	24%	51%	17%	8%	100%
Year Ago 2/	49,269	68,756	34,635	11,644	164,304
Avg Live Wgt	3.77	5.29	6.81	8.30	5.37
% of total /1	30%	42%	21%	7%	100%
To date/2006	2,279,674	3,994,544	1,120,863	662,690	8,057,771
To date/2005	2,351,970	3,856,662	1,360,425	480,536	8,049,593

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

Weight Class Description:

- (A) This size product is normally marketed bone-in into fast food and food service sectors and may include Cornish hens.
- (B) This size product is normally marketed into the retail grocery sector in tray pack or bagged forms.
- (C) This size product is normally marketed either into the retail grocery sector in tray pack and IQF form or is further processed and marketed into various sectors.
- (D) This size product is normally marketed deboned or as roasters or roasting chicken.

LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED WEEK ENDING 16-Dec-06
(THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG (B)		YOUNG	OLD	TOTAL
	HENS	TOMS	BREEDERS	BREEDERS	
Head	2,117	2,655	22	12	4,806
Avg Wt	15.60	38.19	29.13	24.48	28.16
Head sltr comparisons					
Last week	2,141	2,704	19	0	4,864
Same wk yr ago	1,937	2,564	19	1	4,521
Avg Wt	15.67	38.78	27.79	44.26	28.83
To-date/2006	98,626	129,215	1,356	217	229,414
To-date/2005	92,117	129,182	1,225	211	222,735

SOURCE: USDA/AMS POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS BRANCH.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (404) 562-5850.